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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19626

TUESDAY, MAY 20, 1997 • IYAR 13, 5757 • 13 MOHARRAM 1418

ISSN 0531-0008

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Women's soccer league hits the field

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Ben-Elissar returns home to fight for job

By HILLEL KUTTLER, MICHAL YUDELMAN, and agencies

Ambassador to the US Eilahu Ben-Elissar returned to Israel last night to fight for his job, amid persistent rumors that he might be replaced.

During the 24-hour visit, Ben-Elissar is to meet with both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy to discuss the matter.

"He knows there's someone in the Prime Minister's Office who does not want him to be the ambassador," an embassy official said yesterday, adding that Ben-Elissar

takes the reports seriously.

The latest speculation from Jerusalem is that Netanyahu's chief foreign policy adviser Dore Gold is angling for the job, and is the one who has leaked the rumors.

During a briefing for reporters in Washington on Friday, Levy, with Ben-Elissar sitting nearby, refused to address questions about the controversy. But in subsequent discussions between the two, Levy agreed that Ben-Elissar should make the trip to Jerusalem now.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu said that the US is interested in aiding the peace process and Israel welcomes its assistance.

Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak,

said the US has no intention of withdrawing from its mediation in the peace process.

These statements were apparently a response to Ambassador Martin Indyk's comment that the Oslo process has fallen apart and it is impossible to make quick repairs to it.

Indyk said the US cannot rebuild the confidence which has been violated between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Netanyahu met yesterday with Indyk after talks with Michigan Governor John Engler.

"The core bargain of Oslo has broken down. Israel was promised security; the

Palestinians were promised self-government and a credible pathway to negotiating their rights in a final status agreement," Indyk told the US-Israel Chamber of Commerce on Sunday. "Terrorism on the one side and unilateral acts which have created the impression that the final status issues are being preempted on the other have combined to break this trust."

Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director-general under the previous government and one of the initiators of the Oslo agreement, warned that if the Oslo agreement breaks down, the peace process in the entire region will collapse. He said the peace process can still be saved, if Israel takes

initiative into its own hands and returns to cooperation with the Palestinians.

"But cooperation cannot be done by dictates, such as Har Homa and tunnels, and without full cooperation in all fields, Oslo will not advance," he said.

Former ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said the peace process is collapsing, and Israel is losing its preferred position with the US administration. He noted that Israel is no longer on the top of the administration's priority list and the US might reduce its involvement in the region.

Commenting on Indyk's statement that the two enemies of the peace process are Palestinian terrorism and Israel's unilateral

steps, Savir said that in the past both the Americans and the governments of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres regarded terrorism as a common enemy. "Now for the first time the Americans are placing us as parallel in the blame for terrorism. This is an extremely severe statement which should not be taken lightly."

"Israel must start working on reinstating the talks and the government must invest day and night, as the previous one did, in siding with the Palestinians. There is no other partner, and the alternative is much worse."

See BEN-ELISSAR, Page 2

British documents indicate:

7 million died in Holocaust

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The number of Jews killed in the Holocaust might have been closer to seven million than six million, according to previously classified World War II intelligence documents released by Britain's Public Record Office yesterday.

The documents, which indicate

Jewish groups slam restitution law, Page 3

that the Holocaust started much earlier than previously believed, are based on German messages that were intercepted and deciphered at the top-secret British wartime code-breaking facility at Bletchley Park.

The decoding was performed by a machine known as Ultra, whose existence was itself classified until relatively recently. Intelligence produced by the machine is believed to have shortened the length of the war by up to three years.

The documents released yesterday provide details of the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews as early as June 1941, several months before the "Final Solution" is generally believed to have been implemented.

The documents provide horrifying early detail of the systematic campaign to destroy European Jewry and are expected to reopen the debate over when the Allied leaders first learned about the destruction of European Jewry. The documents are also liable to again raise questions about why so little

was apparently done by the Allies to limit the genocide.

Most of the executions were carried out by German police units, known as Ordnungspolizei, or "Orpo," in conjunction with the SS.

The Germans clearly feared that the messages might be intercepted and executions were therefore classified under the euphemisms, "Cleansing Operations" and "Action According to the Usage of War." The decoded messages showed that victims were described as Jews, Jewish plunderers, Jewish Bolsheviks and Russians soldiers.

According to the messages, hundreds of thousands of Jews were rounded up and systematically slaughtered in the months following the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

The British intelligence branch responsible for intercepting wartime German messages has already released a large number of documents, the existence of which were revealed only in the early 1980s, but intercepted messages of the Ordnungspolizei have been retained until now.

It is believed a decision was taken to release them because copies of some documents were unclassified by the US last year, provoking charges of a British coverup.

Evidence of the scale of the Holocaust is contained in an appendix of "British Intelligence in the Second World War," the official war history by Professor Sir Harry Hinsley and three co-authors.

According to Hinsley, the British code-breaking teams reported references to Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz and seven other concentration camps from the spring of 1942 to February 1943.



Crew members of the Dvora-class patrol boat pose yesterday in Haifa after their successful mission off Lebanon. (IDF Spokesman)

Suicide attack on boat fails

By DAVID RUDGE

A suicide bomber's attempt to destroy an Israeli Navy gunboat off the coast of south Lebanon failed yesterday morning, apparently when the attacker detonated his explosives-laden boat prematurely.

PM blames PA for stalemate, Page 2

There were no casualties among the crew of the Dvora-class patrol boat in the incident, for which the Amal Shiite movement claimed responsibility.

Initially it was reported that the navy crewmen had spotted a Lebanese fishing boat coming toward them and opened fire after it failed to heed warning signals. The boat exploded and sank.

Subsequent reports, however, indicated that the incident was an attempted suicide attack, whose perpetrator blew up his fishing boat prematurely, after the crew of the patrol boat began to take precautionary measures, but before they opened fire.

The Dvora class is used for coastal patrol work, because of its speed and maneuverability, which give it excellent interception cap-

abilities, while enabling it to take quick evasive action if necessary.

The gunboat was on routine patrol some two kilometers off the Lebanese coast at about 5:30 a.m., when the crew spotted the fishing boat with one person aboard.

In accordance with standing orders, they signalled the boat to stop, but it kept on coming. The gunboat reportedly approached to within a safe distance of the fishing vessel, at which point the suicide bomber apparently blew himself up.

There was no damage to the gunboat or the crew, despite Amal's claim that it was destroyed. Lebanese television stations last night screened a video film purportedly showing the explosion.

According to some reports, the fishing boat was loaded with up to 100 kg. of explosives and it blew up about 500 meters from the patrol boat.

The IDF Spokesman announced last night that an inquiry into the action had been completed and that OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal praised the alertness and actions of the patrol boat's crew.

It was not clear initially whether the fishing boat had intended to infiltrate Israeli waters and carry out an attack here, or whether the aim from the outset had been to try to blow up a patrol boat.

See BOAT, Page 2

Mother strangles daughter, hangs self

By RAINE MARCUS

A mother of six apparently killed her autistic daughter and then hanged herself in the stairwell of the family's Bat Yam home yesterday.

A neighbor found the body of Almilito Mahari, 53, in the stairwell of the Rehov Dalia building at around 6 a.m. She banged on the door of the family's apartment and woke the occupants, one of whom found the body of 11-year-old Ruth Mahari lying in her mother's bedroom, a piece of cloth tied around her neck.

Police and Magen David Adom personnel were summoned to the Amidar quarter apartment and an MDA doctor pronounced mother and daughter dead. A police pathologist estimated the apparent murder and suicide took place at around 4 a.m.

Relatives blamed the municipal social services department for threatening to take Ruth away from

her mother, because they said she could not cope with her daughter's problems.

"They [the social services] wanted to take Ruth away from us," said family member Yael.

But this was denied by social services representative Rachel Vidal, who told Army Radio yesterday there were no plans to remove the autistic child from her home.

"There was no reason for the family to think such things, and we had no such plans," said Vidal. "It's true that the mother had difficulties with her - she had to look after her 24 hours a day because of her special needs."

"We helped the family - not just with the child, but with other things, too - because the mother did not speak Hebrew well, since the family immigrated from Ethiopia and had difficulty adjusting."

But, added Vidal, there were no signs of distress from the family that would warrant taking Ruth from her mother.

Neighbors said that although they knew the mother was unemployed and had financial problems, there was no indication she was distressed or was about to do something drastic. Police are investigating.

BACKGROUND

Defeating the enemy at sea

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel's enemies have tried everything from speed boats and water scooters, to kayaks, frogmen and now explosives-laden fishing craft to break through the iron curtain the Israel Navy has drawn across the northern coast, but it has been nearly seven years since they have succeeded.

One of the main factors is the speedy Dvora-class gunboats, which keep a 24-hour vigil along the

coast. The Dvora is capable of reaching 40 knots, and is equipped with depth charges, torpedoes, and advanced radar. Some are being fitted with a remote-controlled deck cannon system, called Typhoon, which is capable of locking onto targets, day or night, in all weather conditions.

Yesterday's attempted attack by Amal was the first in three years. On July 11, 1994, a pair of terrorists tried to swim to the northern coast. They were detected at night on radar

by a patrolling Dvora gunship and killed. It was not known to which group the two belonged; it was the sixth such attempt since 1987.

One of the most spectacular attempted infiltrations occurred on October 9, 1993, when a terrorist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine tried to run the navy's gauntlet on a water scooter. He was cut down by patrol boat just north of Rosh Hanikra.

See DEFEATING, Page 2

Soccer star Ronnen Harazi arrested on tax evasion charges

By RAINE MARCUS and ORI LEWIS

Israel and Betar Jerusalem soccer star Ronnen Harazi was arrested on suspicion of tax evasion and then released on bail by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. Harazi denied the allegations.

Harazi is suspected of defrauding income tax authorities out of hundreds of thousands of shekels in

1993-1995.

According to tax investigators, Harazi failed to declare bonuses he received from Betar, the new National League champions, and is alleged also to have purchased an apartment in Jerusalem with money owed to the taxman.

He also allegedly failed to declare that Betar rented an apartment and a car for him.

Betar also allegedly financed his

wedding and bought him a car, without Harazi declaring this to tax authorities, who said the investigation is still in its early stages and that other arrests can be expected.

Harazi was released on a personal bond of NIS 1 million and a NIS 200,000 bank guarantee. He was also banned from leaving the country for the next 180 days.

See HARAZI, Page 2

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The public is invited



509007

WJRO report critical of Polish restitution law

By DAVID HARRIS

The recently passed Polish law on Jewish communal property seized during the Holocaust "legitimizes, facilitates, and sustains the great Nazi plunder of Jewish public property," according to a confidential report sent to the Polish government by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) and the World Federation of Polish Jews (WFPJ).

The act, ratified by the president three weeks ago, aims to regulate the legal standing of Jewish communities in the country.

Last night, a senior figure in the Polish Jewish community said he was disturbed by the attitude of the WJRO and called for cooperation rather than disharmony.

Despite four years of negotiations with a government that has changed three times, the WJRO and WFPJ believe the act serves to obstruct rather than aid restitution, according to WJRO vice chairman Naphtali Lavie.

The report, which analyzes the act section by section, was written by lawyer Arye Edelist, former Supreme Court justice Moshe Bejski, and retired

District Court president judge Moshe Nacht, all of whom are of Polish origin.

The document, sent to Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, and Interior Minister Leszek Miller, itemizes the clauses that its authors think effectively prevent world Jewry from staking a claim to the property.

- The act only grants title to properties currently in their possession. This grants the remaining nine Jewish communities from a pre-war 1,500 rights of ownership of a tiny fraction of Jewish property.

- The act deals with real estate, not movable property or other rights.

- The act prevents claims on property now in the hands of third parties, in other words not held by the government. This provision practically precludes all restitution.

- The act fails to grant any substantive ownership rights to Jewish communal and public property.

- The act forbids the expropriation of cemeteries.

- The act appears to grant legal status to the WJRO and others

through the creation of a Polish foundation to deal with the issue, but grants no rights to the foundation.

The WJRO believes it is wrong that the nine surviving communities, 1,460 people, be allowed to stake claims to the communal property of 1,500 communities or 3,500,000 pre-war Jews.

However, that argument was rejected by Stanislaw Krajewski, a member of the board of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland. "Are you suggesting the WJRO has a stronger claim to the property than we do?" he asked. "We are very unhappy that they are trying to ignore the community."

Krajewski also pointed out that in a unique move in Eastern Europe, the Polish government included the WJRO by name in the legislation. "The WJRO is an important partner," he said. "But the three, including the Jewish community [and the government], must work together."

No one was available for comment at the Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday. However, writing in *The Jerusalem Post* a month ago, embassy press counselor Zbigniew Szumielewicz defended his government's actions.

"It is not true that the legislation would compensate only a minuscule remnant of Polish Jewry in only nine Polish cities. Firstly, it is not a law dealing with compensation but with restitution of property of religious communities only. Secondly, the law enables proper organizations and institutions to set up a foundation which will be legally authorized to take care of the property. Both WJRO and the World Federation of Polish Jews may become partners in the foundation provided it is deemed appropriate."

"It is also untrue that the legislation takes into account only nine cities in Poland where contemporary Jewish religious communities have been established. Activities of the foundation will cover the whole territory of Poland, with the hope that it will support active people willing to contribute to the communities of Bialystok, Lublin, etc."

"However, implementation of the law depends on both sides, on understanding the essence of friendly Polish-Jewish relations, of using the language of cooperation and dialogue which has been the aim of the Polish legislators."



New find at Tel Hazor

A life-size statue of a lion from around the 15th century BCE was found Sunday at Tel Hazor by a team headed by Hebrew University's Prof. Amnon Ben-Tor. The one-ton basalt sculpture is identical to one found at the site 40 years ago by Yigael Yadin and may have decorated the entrance to a Canaanite temple.

Claims on Polish accounts in Swiss banks must be addressed to Warsaw

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Individuals who want to pursue claims against the Polish government regarding dormant accounts in Swiss banks that belonged to Holocaust victims are now being asked to apply to Warsaw directly rather than to the Polish Embassy here.

On April 7, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Polish government had agreed to return funds from dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks which had belonged to Polish citizens who died in the

Holocaust, attributing the information to the Polish Embassy in the US.

Based on published accounts, 53 Poles had such accounts in Swiss banks in 1939. The article included a list of those holding such accounts, and instructions saying inquiries should be sent to the Polish Embassy in Tel Aviv.

However, one applicant sent the *Post* a copy of a letter he received from Karol Drozd, Counselor and Minister Plenipotentiary in the Polish Embassy. The letter, dated

May 7, said that the consular section of the embassy had informed him that "all inquiries concerning dormant Jewish accounts in Swiss banks that belonged to people listed in the article published by *The Jerusalem Post* on April 7 1997, should be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Poland."

Drozd then provided the address: Mr. Jan Ciszewski, Director of the International Cooperation & European Law Department, Ministry of Justice, Al. Ujazdowskie 11, 00-950, Warsaw.

AT THE KNESSET

PM mum on Ne'eman

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman had informed him he is taking a vacation and any decision regarding his return to the government would be taken after that. Netanyahu said he refuses "to deal in speculation" on the subject. He also noted there are still High Court appeals pending which could affect the decision. Netanyahu met yesterday with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, but details of their discussion were not disclosed.

Survivors may deposit reparations abroad
The Bank of Israel has agreed to allow Holocaust survivors who receive compensation from Germany to deposit the money in foreign banks because of the low interest in local banks. The proposal came from Avraham Herschson (Likud), who chairs the Knesset sub-committee on restitution of Jewish property.

World war II veterans cited
The Knesset paid tribute to the Jewish veterans who

fought the Nazis in World War II. At the opening of the summer session, Speaker Dan Tichon praised the fighters as representatives sat in the visitors' gallery. The idea of marking the veteran's contribution was the initiative of Yur' Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

MKS, staffers get lung tests
As part of its ongoing efforts to get MKs to quit smoking, the Knesset held a marathon campaign testing the lungs of 142 parliamentarians, their aides, and other Knesset staff. The campaign, the initiative of Knesset physician Dr. Yitzhak Lipsitz, was held in conjunction with Beilinson Hospital's lung unit.

Levy warns of welfare problems
Maxim Levy (Gesher), chairman of the Labor and Social Affairs Committee, warned yesterday that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry is finding it difficult to cope with welfare problems around the country. Ministry Director-General Yigael Ben-Shalom and Levy agreed to continue community services for the elderly despite the severe budget deficit.

Freij resigns as Bethlehem mayor, PA tourism minister

By JON IMMANUEL

Elias Freij, mayor of Bethlehem since 1972 and minister of tourism in the Palestinian Authority since 1994, has resigned both positions, saying he is tired of his jobs and wants to spend time writing.

In a terse two-line resignation letter to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Freij wrote, "I hereby hand in my resignation as mayor of Bethlehem and minister of tourism." He said Arafat has not yet responded, but the decision is already effective as far as he is concerned and he has not gone to work in his municipal office this week. He gave no explanation for his decision.

Freij, 80, was the only elected Palestinian mayor who was not

eventually deposed by the Israeli military authorities for pro-PLO leanings. He was also the only non-PA mayor who remained in office after the PA took office.

He was considered pro-Jordan until the Oslo agreements and was a leading moderate who met frequently with both Labor and Likud leaders. When he counseled opening peace talks with Israel during the intifada, Arafat in Tunis threatened a "bullet in the chest" to anyone who undermined the exclusive authority of the PLO, a threat which was widely assumed to have been directed at Freij.

Freij said there were no political reasons for his resignation and retirement, and his appointment as minister in the PA indicated that he

had made his peace with Arafat. "I have been a member of the Bethlehem council since 1946 and I have been carrying many melons on my shoulders."

A large part of his role as Bethlehem's mayor involved exploiting his international contacts to encourage Christian tourism to the city. The two jobs were so closely linked that Freij decided to resign as minister as well.

He has been treated at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital during the past two years for a heart condition, but said health was not the reason for his resignation. "I am completely healthy," he said.

Freij's replacements in both jobs will be picked by Arafat.



New envoy arrives

Incoming Russian Ambassador Mikhail Bogdanov (right) is welcomed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday by Director-General Eytan Bentsur.

Health Ministry to study problem of drug sales on Internet

By JUDY SEGEL

The Health Ministry will put the subject of uncontrolled and dangerous sales of prescription medications via the Internet on the agenda of its new Internet steering committee.

Ministry deputy director-general for information and international affairs Yair Amikam agreed to do this after receiving queries from *The Jerusalem Post* about the potential of the global computer system for bringing in medications without supervision.

Amikam said the ministry's decision to establish an Internet steering committee was made last week by associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev, with the intention of disseminating ministry information on health to the general public via the Internet.

The World Health Organization's annual general assembly, which met in Geneva over the past two weeks, passed a resolution last Monday urging a global fight against the sale of drugs via the Internet. Amikam was a member of the ministry's delegation, but he said it was impossible for him to attend all committee and plenary sessions at the massive gathering, thus he was unaware of this specific issue.

The WHO said in a statement that it fears the Internet could become a medium for the promotion and sales of unauthorized drugs, leading to consumer misuse, abuse, and public health risks. It called on member states to boost cooperation among pharmaceutical companies, police authorities, and the business community to control on-line sales of medications.

The WHO's director of drug safety, Martign ten Ham, said in Geneva that his office had found four companies selling prescription drugs over the Internet without providing detailed information. Among them were drugs for acne that can cause birth defects if pregnant women take them, toxic chemotherapy drugs, and "morning-after pills" for causing abortions after unprotected sex.

Some Israelis have claimed they ordered via the Internet melatonin and DHEA, two hormones which are widely consumed without a prescription in the US despite concerns about long-term health risks. The first can be sold only by prescription here, and marketing the second is prohibited.

Ten Ham, a Dutch physician, said quality assurance of drugs sold over the Internet is not guaranteed, and that there is a risk that useless

counterfeit medicines could be sold. Even narcotics could be sold in this way, he warned.

However, since laws and regulations differ from country to country and the Internet is impossible to monitor, dealing with the problem is very difficult.

Howard Reiss, head of the Israel Pharmacists Association, said such illicit purchases are "not yet a major problem here, but are likely to be. It's high time that the government examines the matter to prevent future abuse, instead of just putting out fires."

Reiss said his own pharmacy often imports medications by mail, and some are sent directly to him, unmarked, without the authorities asking questions. Although it's impossible to force pharmaceutical companies to declare mailed medications as drugs for customs examination, "they should confiscate all unmarked medication packages they find in sample examinations and inform the senders, in writing, that if they do this again, none of their goods will get through," Reiss added.

Customs Authority spokeswoman Idit Lev-Ezraha said it cannot examine every one of the thousands of packages that arrive from abroad each day.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table of Israeli shares in New York, including AMEX and NASDAQ indices and individual stock prices.

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS

Table of Mishtanim leading stocks with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Table of international shares in New York, listing various foreign companies and their stock prices.

Table of Israeli shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, and others.

Table of Israeli shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, etc.

Table of Israeli shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Bezeq, Cellcom, etc.

Table of Mishtanim leading stocks (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of Mishtanim leading stocks (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of Mishtanim leading stocks (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of international shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of international shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of international shares in New York (continued), listing companies like Intel, Microsoft, etc.

TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks drop on M1 increase

Mishtanim 313.65 ▲ =7.95%

Maof 313.67 ▼ =2.92%

Stock indexes fell after a higher-than-expected increase in M1 money supply in April blunted optimism the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates.

Chemical companies declined as the dollar weakened against the shekel in recent days. Exporting chemical companies are hurt by a stronger shekel, because they earn in dollars and pay expenses in shekels.

Discount Investments did say on Sunday that its first-quarter net income rose 21%.

Key Representative Rates

Table of key representative rates including US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

NYSE STOCKS

Table of NYSE stocks including Declines, Shares advanced, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table of other market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US)

Table of dollar crossrates including Pound, Yen, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodities including Cocoa, Silver, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodities including Cocoa, Silver, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures including Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table of London metal fixes including Gold, Silver, etc.

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 19-MAY-97)

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

LONDON

Table of London stock market data including Allied Domecq, BAT Inds, etc.

PARIS

Table of Paris stock market data including Acel, Alcatel, etc.

FRANKFURT

Table of Frankfurt stock market data including Allianz AG, Bayer, etc.

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks end higher; unfazed by Fed meeting

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks closed on an upbeat note yesterday as Wall Street was unfazed by the possibility that the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates at its policy-setting meeting today.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT.

JERUSALEM Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur, 11 a.m. from Bronman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 9, 23, 28, 29. For info, call 5882819.

HADASSAH Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV MUSEUMS TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andrea Semano; The Morgue, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Visual Reality: The domestic and male in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART: Shlomo Ben-David and Amnon Ben-David. The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

Magren David Adom In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: Ashdod* 8551333 K. Far Sava* 9902222 Ashkelon 6551332 Nahariya* 9912333 Beersheba* 6274767 Netanya* 8604444 Beit Shimon 6523133 Petah Tikva* 9311111 Dan Region* 5793333 Rehovot* 9451333 Eilat* 6324444 Rishon* 9642333 Haifa* 8512233 Safed 6920333 Jerusalem* 6523133 Tel Aviv* 5460111 Karmiel* 9985444 Tiberies* 6792444

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Shoef, 78 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 748-1066.

Netanya: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15 Smlansky, 860-5204.

Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 851-3005.

Krayot area: Hayesod, 73 Keren Hayesod, Kiryat Bialik, 870-4185.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merzliya, 6 Maskit (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bitur Holim (internal, obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology).

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).

Netanya: Laniado. Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110. The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205. 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Police 100, Fire 102, First Aid 101.

NEWS

in brief

ULA intensifies protest

The Union of Local Authorities protest action ended its sixth day yesterday, with local residents attempting to block major junctions around the country, including at Ben-Gurion Airport. The action caused traffic jams, but police managed to keep the roads open and made no arrests.

"This government's coldheartedness has forced the heads of local authorities to take unusually drastic measures," ULA head Adi Eldar said.

About 50 local authority heads arrived at the office of Finance Minister Dan Meridor in Jerusalem, and blocked the entrance. After an hour, police were called in to enable Meridor to leave his office. Police scuffled with the local leaders.

In the afternoon, the local leaders sat down in the road leading to the Prime Minister's Office. The ULA said its leaders were "violently removed from the road" by police and border policemen, and some had to be treated by a Magen David Adom ambulance called to the scene.

Eldar said the local authorities would continue their strike, because the government had made no effort in the past six days to solve the debt problem of the local authorities. *lim*

Nurses strike postponed

A nationwide strike of 2,000 public health nurses that was due to begin today has been postponed until further notice.

The union yesterday said it changed its plans because of "signs of a positive arrangement" in which the state would cover all the costs of family health (*tipat halav*) centers, except for providing the buildings that house them and their maintenance.

Public health nurses work in 500 centers, providing immunizations and early diagnosis of disabilities in infants, supervising pregnancies, monitoring infectious disease in their area, and providing advice to the elderly. *Judy Siegel*

Jerusalem school strike called off

A threatened strike of Jerusalem schools scheduled for tomorrow was called off yesterday after a meeting between a representative of the Prime Minister's Office and members of the Jerusalem district parents association. The Jerusalem Municipality also undertook the financing of security guards for the rest of the current school year.

It was agreed that the Prime Minister's Office would ask the head of the unit for fighting terrorism and the Internal Security Ministry to look into the issue of security at Jerusalem schools, and to study the overall guarding of educational facilities in general and Jerusalem in particular for the coming school year. *lim*

Internet site shows defense wares

The Defense Ministry, the Export Institute, and the defense industries have opened an Internet site displaying their wares at the 47th Paris air show, which is taking place until the end of this week.

Nineteen Israeli civilian and military companies are represented at the show in several pavilions, compared to only 16 at the last show in 1995. Their products are presented on the site, which appears in English and French. The location is <http://www.air-show.mod.gov.il>. *Judy Siegel*



17th Golani Run
Golani Brigade soldiers keep up the pace Sunday on their annual Mt. Hermon to Eilat run, which is to end Thursday. (IDF Spokesman)

Zissman blasts Hammer

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman yesterday criticized Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's flip-flop on the matriculation exams, and called for the exam in Bible to always be mandatory.

"I heard criticism of the lottery system from the minister 2 1/2 years ago, but he had a whole year to decide on the matter, and didn't have to do so at the last moment and secretly," Zissman said.

"To me, Bible is what has set the Jewish people apart over the generations, and it should be removed from the lottery, with this system continued regarding the other subjects."

Zissman expressed his satisfaction

over Hammer's agreeing to hold the lottery this year in the end, and said in September the ministry would bring the committee its proposal for a method of choosing the matriculation exam subjects next year.

"I want to commend the pupils, who are part of our democratic system and know how to stand up for their rights," Zissman said.

MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) sharply criticized Hammer, saying: "How will the education minister, the father of all educators, look the pupils in the eyes while he tells bald-faced lies on the one hand and talks about ethics on the other. The minister did something terrible and should resign."

"I advise the minister and the director-general to say that some-

thing was done here without thinking, and must be reconsidered," said MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud). "The lottery is a good system and should continue."

Meretz MK Naomi Chazan said: "Not only did the minister mislead, cheat and lie to the pupils, but so did the whole educational system which had a hand in this... You lied and didn't even ask forgiveness."

"The impression was created that public pressure and the pupils are what caused the minister to change his mind, and this is not good from an educational standpoint," Likud MK Ze'ev Boim said.

MK Shmuel Halpern (United Torah Judaism) put a different spin on his criticism, saying: "What was behind the whole storm was the fact that there are those who are afraid to

be tested in Bible."

Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell, appearing before the committee, said: "The minister said at the beginning of the year that he agreed to the idea of only four required exams, but that he was not happy with the lottery system."

"For this reason, he thought that having a committee of experts was a better system. The result regarding the selection of tests as regards the pupils was the same. The whole matter regards only the manner the tests were chosen this year. For next year, we will reconsider how to make things easier on the pupils. We must also remember that the matriculation certificate is a tool, and it has become the end all and that is too bad."

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were seven of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds and eight of clubs. The results of the second draw were the 10 of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds and king of clubs.

Increase shown in new cases of multiple sclerosis

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 15 percent increase in the number of new multiple sclerosis cases has been reported during the past two years, largely due to the relatively high incidence of the neurological disorder among immigrants from the CIS.

Jeanine Weisberg, director of the Israel Multiple Sclerosis Society, reported Sunday that there are 5,000 MS patients in Israel today, and 1,500 of them are society members.

Dr. Roni Milo, an Assaf Harofeh Hospital neurologist who runs its MS service, said that ethnic and geographical differences account for variations in the incidence of the disease, which causes the immune system to attack the myelin sheath on the nerves and can cause paralysis, blindness, and other disabilities. The chronic disease most often hits women and is first diagnosed in people 20 to 40.

Milo said that although a comprehensive epidemiological study has not yet been completed, doctors who treat MS patients believe the significant increase is due to the increasing frequency of MS around the world, and the fact that some 700,000 immigrants have arrived from the former Soviet Union in recent years. The farther one lives from the equator, the higher the incidence of the disease.

The society's annual conference will take place at Ichilov Hospital in Friday. Participants will hear lectures on new and future treatments, relaxation therapies, and support techniques for families. The conference is being supported by Schering-Plough, which markets Betaferon, one of the drugs given to MS patients.

Sheba researchers find gene linked to breast, ovarian cancers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The first gene mutation causing ovarian and breast cancer to be discovered solely in Israel has been announced by researchers at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

The new mutation was found to appear in Jewish women originating in Iran and Afghanistan. Women from these communities have been considered at low risk to develop these diseases, compared to the general population.

Epidemiological studies have shown that of 2,200 new cases of breast cancer and 260 of ovarian cancer in this country each year, three-quarters are in women of Ashkenazi origin and a quarter in women of Sephardi origin. But in families of Iranian and Afghan origin, where the diseases have struck several women, the mutation has been found in all the women examined so far.

Dr. Eitan Friedmann, director of the oncogenetics unit at the Tel Hashomer hospital, said that now the mutation has been discovered, women of these

origins who have had cases of breast or ovarian cancer in their families should come and be tested. These found to bear the mutation should undergo periodic examinations by their doctors to detect the disease early, if it does appear.

Friedmann said the hospital had developed a technique that allows the accurate diagnosis of the mutation without the use of radioactive materials. Some of the women found to have the mutation and who had finished giving birth had their ovaries removed as a preventive measure.

Matza appeals to PM to save health system

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, enraged over Treasury efforts to impede agreement on a package deal to save the health system, yesterday handed over responsibility for the issue to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Matza's step followed the breakdown in negotiations between the two ministries. He specifically accused David Milgrom, the Treasury's budget chief, of "uncompromising and hard-headed positions." The Treasury has delayed payments to make up the deficit in health tax collections, Matza claimed, and taken other measures to ensure that the national health insurance system fails.

In a letter to the premier, Matza said that months of negotiations with the Treasury have been wasted, as the Finance Ministry has "knowingly and with intent, brought about a deep crisis and the collapse of the health system, which will force us in the end to nationalize the health funds or to cancel the National Health Insurance Law as an egalitarian system."

Two months ago, Matza presented the problems - including the NIS 1.5 billion deficit in the health

system and the failure to update the basket of health services due to all residents - before Netanyahu, who asked him to formulate an agreement with the premier's representatives. But the Treasury has vetoed all proposals, Matza said, causing two months to be wasted, "and now we have lost 1997."

"The health system is deteriorating," Matza warned Sunday's meeting of the National Health Council. He noted that the intermediate period - during which an expanded basket of services was to be presented as an amendment to the National Health Insurance Law - is due to end in December.

The Treasury stands firmly against the Health Ministry's efforts to expand the basket of services, he added, and even wants to shrink the basket. "The health system is at a crossroads," he said, "and we cannot ignore it."

Matza is expected to demand the restoration of the employers' parallel tax, which the Treasury abolished, even though it provided considerable funds for health services.

In response, the Treasury spokesman said it "rejects all the Health Ministry's claims, and that to our sorrow, most of the data it gave are inaccurate and tendentious."

13 remanded in 'licenses for money' scheme

By DAVID RUDGE

Thirteen driving examiners were remanded for periods of four to eight days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday, on suspicion of being involved in an alleged "licenses for money" corruption ring.

The court, however, released four driving instructors on bail and placed them under house arrest.

The instructors and examiners

were arrested on Sunday, in connection with ongoing police inquiries into the alleged bribery case.

All the suspects proclaimed their innocence during the remand hearing. Some tried to hide their faces from television cameras and photographers as they were led into the court.

Judge Uri Kutai differentiated between the examiners, suspected of accepting bribes, and the instructors, who allegedly gave them.

He said that the allegations were very serious and that there is strong prima facie evidence against the examiners, who in appearance had demanded money, which the instructors had perhaps been forced to pay.

Senior police officers in the northern region and the police would appeal the decision regarding the instructors. The appeal was submitted yesterday afternoon, with the

police maintaining that the allegations against the instructors are equally serious as those against the examiners. A ruling is expected today.

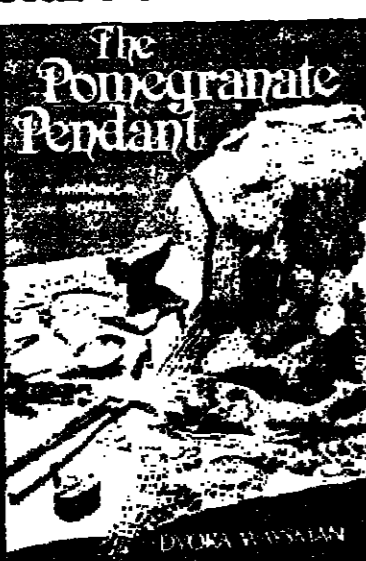
In the meantime, inquiries into the affair are continuing and police are expected to bring in dozens more driving instructors for questioning.

According to the allegations, the examiners took bribes from instructors to pass their students in both theory and practical driving tests.

Police said that some motorists who had received their driver's licenses in this fashion had subsequently been involved in serious accidents.

POST book department

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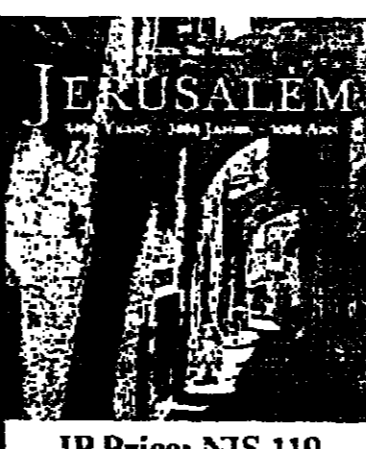
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Mobile eye-care clinic opens in the Negev

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Elderly Ethiopian immigrants in need of eye care will soon be able to get it from the Smetana and Alexander Katz Negev Project Vision Mobile Eye Clinic, being dedicated today at Beersheba's Yud Ajef Community Center. The clinic is expected to meet the eye care needs of Negev residents who lack access to such services. It is opening with the participation of Ben-Gurion University and Kupat Holim Clalit, and is designed to provide outreach and social services.

The clinic is being established with the help of Project Vision, a US-based organization dedicated to eye care services around the world, particularly in Israel. Dr. Steven Kutner and Kevin King, both from Project Vision, are to attend today's dedication.

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